Assembly

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Sixth session
Kingston, Jamaica
20-31 March 2000

Statement of the President on the work of the Assembly at the sixth session

1. The first part of the sixth session of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority was held at Kingston, Jamaica, from 20 to 31 March 2000.

Adoption of the agenda

2. At its 70th meeting, on 20 March 2000, the Assembly adopted the agenda for the sixth session (ISBA/6/A/2).

Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Assembly

3. At the 70th meeting, on 20 August 2000, Dr. Liesbeth Lijnzaad (Netherlands) was elected President of the Assembly for 2000. Subsequently, following consultations in the regional groups, the representatives of Jamaica (Latin American and Caribbean Group), the Czech Republic (Eastern European Group), Namibia (African Group) and India (Asian Group) were elected as Vice-Presidents.

Tribute to the late Elliot L. Richardson

4. At the 71st meeting, on 23 March 2000, the Assembly paid tribute to the late Elliot L. Richardson. Statements were made by the representative of the observer delegation of the United States of America, the representatives of each of the regional groups and by the Secretary-General.

Election to fill a vacancy on the Finance Committee

5. At the 71st meeting, on 23 March 2000, Mr. Boris Idrisov (Russian Federation) was elected by the Assembly to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Mr. Sergei P. Ivanov (Russian Federation) for the remainder of Mr. Ivanov's five-year term, expiring on 31 December 2001.

Election to fill a vacancy on the Council

6. The Assembly recalled that, following the election of Italy to membership of the Council in Group A (ISBA/5/A/7), a vacancy had arisen for a member of the Western European and Others Group in Group E of the Council for the remainder of 2000. At the 71st meeting, on 23 March 2000, Malta was elected to fill the vacancy in Group E of the Council for the remainder of 2000.

Appointment of the Credentials Committee

7. The Assembly elected a Credentials Committee in accordance with rule 24 of its Rules of Procedure. The following were elected as members of the Credentials Committee: China, Ghana, Guyana, Japan, Mozambique, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia and Uruguay. Subsequently, Ms. Isabelle A. V. van Tol (Netherlands) was elected by the Committee as its Chairman. The Committee met on 28 March 2000. The report of the Committee is contained in document ISBA/6/A/4 and Add.1. At the 72nd plenary meeting,

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on 31 March 2000, the Assembly adopted the report of the Credentials Committee. The decision of the Assembly relating to credentials is contained in document ISBA/6/A/5.

Financial regulations

8. At the 71st meeting, on 23 March 2000, the Assembly, acting on the recommendation of the Council, approved the financial regulations of the Authority (ISBA/6/A/3).

Election of the Secretary-General

9. At the 72nd meeting, on 31 March 2000, the President of the Council informed the Assembly that the Council had decided to propose to the Assembly, pursuant to article 162, paragraph 2 (b), of the Convention, the name of Satya N. Nandan as the sole candidate for election to the post of Secretary-General of the Authority. The Assembly elected Mr. Nandan by acclamation.

Next meeting of the Assembly

10. At the 72nd meeting, on 31 March 2000, statements were made by the representatives of Germany and Mexico. The representative of Jamaica, on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group, also made a statement regarding the need to ensure the independence of the members of the Legal and Technical Commission and the need for equitable geographical balance in the composition of the Commission in accordance with article 163 of the Convention. The representative of Jamaica also noted that the term of office of the new member of the Commission, who had been elected during the current session for the remainder of the term of office of the current members, should not count as a term of office for future elections to the Commission.

11. In closing the meeting, the President requested the Secretary-General to use his good offices to ensure that all States Parties to the Convention are fully aware of their responsibilities as members of the Authority. Appreciation was expressed to the representative of Cameroon in his capacity as Chairman of the Group of 77 for his contribution to the success of the current session. The next meeting of the Assembly will be held at Kingston, Jamaica, from 3 to 14 July 2000.